

Appln. No.: 09/883,533
Amendment Dated August 31, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 23, 2005

MATP-604US

Remarks/Arguments:

The specification is amended to correct an inadvertent omission.

Preliminary Matters

Claims 1-12 are pending in the above identified application. By this amendment, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the function of the infrared transmitter.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Humpleman et al. (US Patent no. 6,603,488) and Schindler et al. (US Patent no. 6,359,636). This ground for rejection is overcome by the amendment to claim 1. In particular, neither Humpleman et al., Schindler et al., nor their combination disclose or suggest an audio/video platform that includes an infrared transmitter for transmitting control commands to a second video device. Basis for this amendment may be found in the specification, for example, at paragraphs [0019] and [0020]. No new matter is added.

The Humpleman et al. patent concerns a browser based command and control home network. Humpleman discloses a system for controlling other video devices by an internet based network through the use of physical network media such as IEEE 1394 Serial bus and Ethernet (column 6, lines 46-48). Although Humpleman describes in column 5, lines 54-59 that a data communication port can physically link the video devices in the home network, Humpleman et al. do not disclose or suggest that the command and control device (i.e. audio/visual platform) includes an infrared transmitter for transmitting commands to other video devices. Thus, the Humpleman et al. system is different from the Applicant's invention because the system according to Humpleman et al. may be incompatible with older video devices that do not have data communication ports such as the 1394 Serial bus and Ethernet.

In page 2 of the previous Office Action, the examiner asserts that the feature of the IR transmitter "is inherent to DTV 102." Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion. As disclosed in column 23, line 66 through column 24, line 13 of Humpleman, control of the networked devices is implemented with the aid of a single control loop from the video display, to the user, to a remote control device, to a detector (i.e. IR detector) on the command and control device. It is respectfully submitted that an IR detector/receiver is different from an IR

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transmitter. Although the device according to Humpleman is able to receive control commands from the remote control, the device itself is unable to transmit infrared control commands to other video devices.

Schindler et al. discloses a graphical interface for controlling a home entertainment system. In the specification, Schindler describes an apparatus that includes a computer to control consumer electronics. Schindler, however, does not disclose or suggest the apparatus (i.e. audio/video platform) includes an IR transmitter for transmitting Infrared command signals to other video devices. Although Schindler lists an IR blaster on Figure 14c, Schindler does not disclose or suggest the function of the IR blaster in the specification. As also seen from Figure 14c, the IR blaster is listed on the entertainment menu, indicating that it has some entertainment function, not a control function.

Because neither Humpleman et al. nor Schindler et al. disclose or suggest the features of claim 1, set forth above, *prima facie* obviousness has not been established based on the cited references. Thus, for the reasons set forth, claim 1 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Humpleman et al. and Schindler et al.

Independent claim 8, while not identical to claim 1, include features similar to claim 1. Claim 8 recites, among other features, a method for controlling a plurality of video devices from an audio/ video platform, including the step of "transmitting infrared commands to the second group of the plurality of devices."

Claims 2-7 include all the features of claim 1 from which they depend; claims 9-12 include all the features of claim 8 from which they depend. Therefore, claims 2-7, and 9-12 should also be allowed at least as dependent upon their respective allowable base claims. Thus, for the reasons set forth above, claims 1-12 are patentable over Humpleman et al. and Schindler et al. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C 103(a) is respectfully requested.

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In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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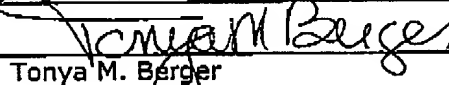
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